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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1258738-0
Total Deleted Page(s) = 52
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 Teletype ☐ Facsimile PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate ☑ Priority □ Routine

**CLASSIFICATION:** 

□ TOP SECRET

☐ SECRET

☐ CONFIDENTIAL

☐ UNCLASEFTO

☑ UNCLAS Date 8/24/83

#0005

FM FBI DALLAS (161B-1216) (P)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI PRIORITY

BT

U NCLAS

ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPIN, BUDED: 8/25/83.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL FIELD OFFICES 8/15/83.

NO RECORD OR IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION LOCATED REGARDING APPOINTEE, LAW FIRM APPOINTEE IS ASSOCIATED WITH, HELEN J. STRAUSS,

IN DALLAS OFFICE INDICES AND

ELSUR FILES.

REFERENCE TO WAS REPORTED TO BUREAU DURING

PREVIOUS BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BY DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU

MARCH 4, 1977.

BT

#0015

1) - Dallas

161B-1216-12

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FM DIRECTOR

TO WASHINGTON FIELD IMMEDIATE

DALLAS' IMMEDIATE

ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

PHOENIX IMMEDIATE

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ENCLOSURES FOR WASHINGTON FIELD FORWARDED BSM.

ROBERT SCHWARZ ATRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: CLOSE OF

BUSINESS, MARCH 4, 1977, WITHOUT FAIL.

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXTREMELY EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF STRAUSS WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT.

BORN OCTOBER 19, 1918, LOCKHART, TEXAS, MARRIED TO FORMER HELEN JACOBS, SINCE 1945 HAS RESIDED 6223 DE LOUCHE, DALLAS. TEXAS, AND SINCE 1945 HAS BEEN SELF-EMPLOYED AS ATTORNEY, SAME CITY. ALSO MAINTAINS LAW OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND HAS

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TEMPORARY ADDRESS 1100 MADISON HOTEL BUILDING.

STRAUS IS FORMER BUREAU AGENT, 1942 TO OCTOBER, 1945,
ALSO SERVED 1972 TO 1977 AS CHAIRMAN DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL
COMMITTEE, HE IS ALSO CHAIRMAN STRAUSS BROADCASTING COMPANY,
AND VALLEY VIEW STATE BANK, BOTH DALLAS, TEXAS.

RELATIVES SHOWN AS
REFERENCES LISTED AS RICHARD A. GUMP,
AND JUDGE IRVING L. GOLDBERG, ALL
DALLAS, TEXAS.
BUFILE INDICATES ALSO HAS

WASHINGTON FIELD IMMEDIATELY ASCERTAIN EXACT ADDRESSES ALL CLOSE RELATIVES AND SET OUT LEADS AT ONCE.

CHECK RECORD'S APPROPRIATE BARS.

ALEXANDRIA CHECK

BRING BUAP INVESTIGATION UP TO DATE SINCE OCTOBER, 1975.

DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST IT IS IMPERATIVE BUDED BE MET WITHOUT FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

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FM WASHINGTON FIELD

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL) ROUTINE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

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NEW HAVEN IMMEDIATE

PHOENIX IMMEDIATE

NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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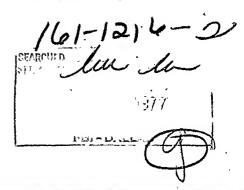
ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: OB MARCH 4. 1977 WITHOUT FAIL.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO, DALLAS, PHOENIX, MARCH 2, 1977. NO COPY TO NEW HAVEN, NEW YORK, LAS VEGAS.

FOR INFORMATION NEW HAVEN, NEW YORK AND LAS VEGAS, BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXTREMELY EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF STRAUSS WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT.

APPOINTEE BORN OCTOBER 19, 1918, AT LOCKHART, TEXAS, SINCE 1945 HAS RESIDED AT 6223 DE LOUCH, DALLAS, TEXAS, AND MAINTAINS RESIDENCE WATERGATE APARTMENTS, WASHINGTON,

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D. C. APPOINTEE FORMER BUREAU AGENT, 1942 TO OCTOBER, 1945	,
AND CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, 1972 TO PRESENT	Γ.
ADDITIONALLY APPOINTEE MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS,	
XEROX CORPORATION, STANFORD, CONNECTICUT, MEMBER BOARD	
OF DIRECTORS, COLUMBIA PICTURES, NEW YORK, NEW YORK,	
MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES,	
DALLAS, TEXAS. APPOINTEE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, VALLEY-	-
VIEW BANK, DALLAS, TEXAS, HOLDS INTEREST IN STRAUSS	
BROAD CASTING, UNITED NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS,	
AND IS MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WYLAIN AND COMPANY, DALLA	s,
TEXAS.	
· IMMEDIATE RELATIVES ARE: , WHO CAN	
BE CONTACTED THROUGH	
	/
	-
ADDITIONALLY REFERENCES ARE FIRST	-
NATIONAL BANK, DALLAS; REPUBLIC BANK TOWERS.	

DALLAS; AND RICHARD GUMP (FORMER BUREAU AGENT), WHO CAN

BE LOCATED AT CEASAR'S PALACE, LAS VEGAS.

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ALL OFFICES CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION NOTING
THAT DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST, IT IS IMPERATIVE
BUDED BE MET WITHOUT FAIL.

BUREAU COPY SENT BY MAIL.

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	Date: 3/4/77	
Tran	resmit the following in(Type in plaintext or code)	
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	FM DALLAS (]6]-]2]6) (RUC)	
	TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE 555	
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	SECTION ONE OF THREE	
	ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: COB MARCH 4,	
	]977, WITHOUT FAIL:	
	RE BUREAU TELETYPE, DATED MARCH 2, ]977, AND WASHINGTON	
	FIELD TELETYPE, DATED MARCH 3, ]977.	
	INVESTIGATION AT DALLAS, TEXAS, WAS CONDUCTED BY	
	SAS WILL HAYDEN GRIFFIN AND AND BY SC	
:	ON MARCH 3, ]977, THE	b6 b7С
	APPOINTEE, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING	1
1	THE APPOINTEE'S RELATIVES:	
	1) - Dallas	
e Ir.	WHG:nrf (1) MM (PUM)	
File Social	161-1216-3	
	Approved: M Per Special Agent in Charge	

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APPOINTEE'S FATHER, CHARLES HENRY STRAUSS, DECEASED, AGE
UNKNOWN, AND APPOINTEE'S MOTHER, EDITH SCHWARZ, DECEASED,
AGE UNKNOWN.
REFERENCES - ON MARCH 3, ]977, ATTORNEY,
AND MEMBER OF APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:
HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SINCE ]955, SOCIALLY
AND IN BUSINESS. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM
IN
STATED HIS PARENTS AND THE APPOINTEE'S PARENTS WERE CLOSE
FRIENDS PRIOR TO THAT TIME, AND HE WAS ALSO ACQUAINTED WITH
APPOINTEE'S PARENTS. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE WAS AN OUTSTANDIN
Special Agent in Charge  SentM Per

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1	ATTORNEY, WHO ENJOYED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AMONG FELLOW
	ATTORNEYS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD IN DALLAS, AND WAS EXTREMELY
	INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OF LAW. HE STATED THE
	APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY WERE ALL OF GOOD CHARACTER, REPUTATION,
	ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY, AND HE KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION
	CONCERNING THEM. RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTEE FAVORABLY
	FOR ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK, AND THE REPUBLIC
	OF TEXAS CORPORATION, DALLAS, TEXAS, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
	INFORMATION:
	FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE APPOINTEE
	AND HIS FAMILY APPROXIMATELY 27 YEARS AGO. HE HAD BEEN
	INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS BUSINESS DEALS WITH THE APPOINTEE, BOTH
	WITH HIMSELF AND THE REPUBLIC BANK, AND WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED
	WITH THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY SOCIALLY. HE STATED THE
	APPOINTEE HAD AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS A BUSINESSMAN, AND
	AN EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT ATTORNEY AND CIVIC LEADER IN THE
	DALLAS AREA. KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION

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	REGARDING THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY, AND STATED THE
	APPOINTEE IS OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES,
	AND LOYALTY, AND HE RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY
	POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	HUDSON AND HUDSON REALTORS, 3]3] TURTLE CREEK BOULEVARD,
	SUITE 302, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE
	FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS, AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED
	WITH THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE
	IS BRILLIANT, COMPASSIONATE, AND A GOOD FAMILY MAN AND A
	LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE IS AN
	ALERT BUSINESSMAN, AND AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY, AND HE KNOWS
	NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE OR APPOINTEE'S
	FAMILY, AND ALL ARE OF GOOD CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES
	AND LOYALTY, AND HE WOULD RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FAVORABLY
	FOR ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES, AND
	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF DALLAS, DALLAS, TEXAS,
	FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
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	STATED HE HAS BEEN A NEIGHBOR OF THE
	APPOINTEE AND HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY FOR
	APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS. HE STATED HE AND THE APPOINTEE
	ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BRANIFF
	INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, AND THAT THE BANK HAS USED THE
	APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. HE HAS BEEN
	CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY
	SOCIALLY AND WOULD CONSIDER APPOINTEE TO BE AN OUTSTANDING
	ATTORNEY, BUSINESSMAN, AND CIVIC LEADER FOR THE STATE OF
	TEXAS AND CITY OF DALLAS. STATED THE APPOINTEE
	HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AMONG BUSINESS LEADERS AND
	FELLOW ATTORNEYS. HE STATED HE KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY
	INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE OR APPOINTEE'S FAMILY,
	AND THEY ARE ALL OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIA
	AND LOYALTY. WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABL
	FOR ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
[	REPUBLIC BANK TOWERS,
	WHO RESIDES AT

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	ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY 30
	YEARS, AND BELIEVED THE APPOINTEE
	HAD WHEN HE STARTED HIS LAW PRACTICE IN DALLAS. HE STATED
	DURING HIS POLITICAL CAREER AND LAW PRACTICE, APPOINTEE
	HAS BECOME KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY, AND HIS SUCCESS ALONG
	THESE LINES HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH HIM BEING A "DOWN-TO-
	EARTH" INDIVIDUAL, AND A GOOD FAMILY MAN.
	STATED THE APPOINTEE IS A BRILLIANT ATTORNEY AND BUSINESSMAN,
	AND IS OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND
	LOYALTY. KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING
	APPOINTEE, AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR
	ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977, FEDERAL JUDGE IRVING L. GOLDBERG,
	EARL CABELL FEDERAL BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS
	KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SINCE ]942, HAVING TAKEN PART IN THE
	APPOINTEE'S WEDDING, AND WAS ALSO A LAW PARTNER OF THE
	APPOINTEE'S IN HIS LAW FIRM FROM ]950, UNTIL ]966, WHEN HE,
	THE JUDGE, WAS APPOINTED TO THE BENCH. HE STATED HE WAS
	ALSO A NEIGHBOR OF THE APPOINTEE'S, AND WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED
	WITH THE APPOINTEE, AND APPOINTEE'S FAMILY, BOTH IN THE LAW
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	FIRM AND SOCIALLY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE WAS AN EXTREMELY
	INTELLIGENT ATTORNEY, AND A GOOD BUSINESSMAN, WHO ENJOYED
	AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. HE STATED HE
	WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FOR ANY
	POSITION THAT MIGHT INVOLVE THE BUSINESS OF LAW. HE STATED
	APPOINTEE AND APPOINTEE'S FAMILY ARE ALL OF GOOD CHARACTER,
	REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY.
	ACQUAINTANCES - ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	ATTORNEY, REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK, DALLAS, TEXAS, AND
	OF THE STATE BAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, DALLAS, ADVISED HE COULD
	LOCATE NO RECORD FOR ANY GRIEVANCES EVER BEING FILED AGAINST
	APPOINTEE. HE STATED HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH
	APPOINTEE, AND APPOINTEE ENJOYED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN
	THE STATE AND DALLAS BAR, AND WAS CONSIDERED AN OUTSTANDING
	ATTORNEY AND BUSINESSMAN. KNOWS NO DEROGATORY
	INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE, AND WOULD RECOMMEND
	APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION, AS TO CHARACTER, REPUTATI
	ASSOCIATES, OR LOYALTY.
	ON MARCH 4, ]977, FEDERAL JUDGE WILLIAM MAC TAYLOR,

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	ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: COB MARCH 4,
	]977, WITHOUT FAIL.
	SECTION TWO OF FOUR
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EARL CABELL FEDERAL BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS

KNOWN THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY ]6 YEARS, AND HAS

BEEN INVOLVED WITH LAW SUITS AGAINS THE APPOINTEE AND THE

APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM. HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH APPOINTEE

SOCIALLY ALSO. JUDGE TAYLOR STATED THE APPOINTEE IS AN

ABLE INDIVIDUAL IN THE COURT ROOM, AS A POLITICIAN OR AS A

BUSINESSMAN. JUDGE TAYLOR STATED HE KNOWS NO DEROGATORY

INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE, AND WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND

THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF TRUST WITH THE FEDERAL

ON MARCH 3, 1977, BAILEY F. RANKIN, U. S. MAGISTRATE,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, DALLAS, TEXAS, A FORMER U. S.
CLERK OF COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, ADVISED
HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 OR 20 YEARS
AS AN ATTORNEY, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE
SOCIALLY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE ENJOYS A GOOD REPUTATION,
AND HE KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING APPOINTEE.
MR. RANKIN STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR
ANY POSITION.

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	ON MARCH 3, ]977,	ATTORNEY,
	FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS, FORMER	ASSISTANT
	UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, ADVISED HE HAS BEEN	CLOSELY
	ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 Y	EARS,
	SOCIALLY, POLITICALLY, AND LEGALLY. HE STATED HE KN	OWS
	APPOINTEE'S FAMILY WELL, AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCI	ATED
	WITH THE APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM. STATED	
	APPOINTEE AND HIS LAW FIRM ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ONE	OF
	THE TOP LAW FIRMS, AND THAT THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FA	MILY
	ARE ALL OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIAT	ES,
	AND LOYALTY. KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORM	ATION
	REGARDING THE APPOINTEE, AND HE CONSIDERS THE APPOIN	TEE TO
	BE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, AND AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESSMA	
	STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FAVO:	RABLY
	FOR ANY POSITION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.	
	ON MARCH 3, ]977, , AN AT	TORNEY,
	6429 AZELIA LANE, DALLAS, TEXAS, FORMER ASSISTANT ST	ATE
	ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNE	Y FOR
	THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN	THE
	APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY ]5 YEARS, AND HAD WORKED	WITH THE

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	APPOINTEE AND HIS LAW FIRM VERY CLOSELY. HE HAS ALSO BEEN
	ASSOCIATED WITH AND AGAINST THE APPOINTEE IN COURT. HE
	STATED THE APPOINTEE DOES AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN THE COURT
	ROOM, AND IS A BRILLIANT ATTORNEY. HE STATED APPOINTEE IS ALSO
	AN EXCELLENT FAMILY MAN, AND ENJOYS A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE
:	BUSINESS WORLD IN THE DALLAS AREA. STATED HE
	KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE
	APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	MERCANTILE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS,
	ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SOCIALLY AND BY REPUTATION
	FOR APPROXIMATELY ]5 YEARS. HE STATED HE HAS NOT BEEN TOO
	CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE, BUT FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE
	OF APPOINTEE, WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY
	POSITION OF TRUST.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977, ATTORNEY, 3503
	FAIRMOUNT STREET, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE
	APPOINTEE APPROXIMATELY ]0 OR ]2 YEARS, BOTH IN BUSINESS AND
	SOCIALLY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING

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	ATTORNEY AND POLITICIAN, AND IS AN EXCELLENT BUSINESSMAN.
	STATED HE KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION
	AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION
	OF TRUST.
	ON MARCH 3, 1977, HENRY WADE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR
	DALLAS COUNTY, DALLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DALLAS, TEXAS,
į	ADVISED HE VAGUELY REMEMBERS THE APPOINTEE WHEN BOTH
	ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, BUT HAS BEEN CLOSELY
	ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE FROM ] 946 TO THE PRESENT TIME.
	HE STATED HE HAS BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH THE APPOINTEE'S FAMILY
	AND HE WOULD CONSIDER THE APPOINTEE AND APPOINTEE'S FAMILY
	ALL TO BE OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND
	LOYALTY, AND KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION. HE
	STATED THE APPOINTEE HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY AND
	BUSINESSMAN, AND HE WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABLY
	FOR ANY POSITION.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977,
	OF THE DALLAS INTERNATIONAL BANK, ] 226 COMMERCE STREET,
	DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE AND
	APPOINTEE'S FAMILY FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS, HAVING BEEN

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CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE SOCIALLY AND IN
THE BANKING BUSINESS, AND HE ALSO SERVED WITH THE APPOINTEE
ON THE TEXAS STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
STATED THE APPOINTEE IS A HARD-WORKER, CONSCIENTIOU
BRILLIANT INDIVIDUAL, AND HAS A REPUTATION AS AN OUTSTANDING
ATTORNEY. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE IS OF GOOD CHARACTER,
REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY, AND KNOWS
NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING APPOINTEE.
RECOMMENDS APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.
ON MARCH 3, ]977, ASSISTANT UNITED
STATES ATTORNEY, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, EARL CABELL
BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED SHE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE
FOR ]5 TO ]8 YEARS, BOTH SOCIALLY AND IN WORK WITH THE
COURTS, AND IN APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM. SHE STATED SHE HAD
PRACTICED LAW IN THE DALLAS AREA PRIOR TO BECOMING AN
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, AND WAS WELL-ACQUAINTED
WITH THE APPOINTEE. STATED THE APPOINTEE ENJOYED
AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION AS A BUSINESSMAN AND ATTORNEY AND
SHE WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.

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	ON MARCH 3, ]977, AN ATTORNEY,	
	MERCANTILE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVI	SED
	HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS	,
	PROFESSIONALLY ONLY. HE STATED HE HAS SEEN THE APPOINT	PEE
	PERFORM IN THE COURT ROOM, AND KNOWS THE APPOINTEE TO 1	3E
	RESPECTED AS A BUSINESSMAN AND AN ATTORNEY. HE STATED	HE
	KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE APPOINTS	EE, AND
	WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.	
	BUSINESS ASSOCIATES - ON MARCH 3, ]977,	
	BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, BRANIFF BUILD	ING,
	DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SINCE	E
	BOTH ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, TEXAS.	•
	HE STATED THE APPOINTEE IS PRESENTLY SERVING AS A MEMBE	ER OF
	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AIRLINES.	IAS
	BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPOINTEE SOCIALLY, IN	1
	POLITICS, AND IN BUSINESS, AND WOULD CONSIDER THE APPOI	NTEE
	TO BE AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL IN ALL OF HIS ENDEAVORS	5.
	KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING	THE
<u> </u>	APPOINTEE OR APPOINTEE'S FAMILY, AND WOULD RECOMMEND AS	POINTEE
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FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.
ON MARCH 3, ]977,
OF THE VALLEY VIEW BANK, [3]0] PRESTON ROAD, DALLAS
TEXAS, ADVISED THE APPOINTEE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND
PRESIDENT OF THE BANK. HE STATED HE HAS KNOWN AND WORKED
WITH THE APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, A
THAT APPOINTEE HAS BEEN AN HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT INDIVIDUA:
STATED THE APPOINTEE ENJOYS A GOOD REPUTATION
AMONG BANKERS AND DEPOSITORS OF THE BANK, AND HE KNOWS OF
NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE.
STATED HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FOR ANY
POSITION.
ON MARCH 3, ]977,
ADVISED HE HAS
KNOWN THE APPOINTEE AND APPOINTEE'S FAMILY FOR APPROXIMATE:
SIXTEEN YEARS, AND APPOINTEE IS PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HIS COMPANY, WHICH IS AN ELECTRICAL
COMPANY OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. HE STATED
THE APPOINTEE AND APPOINTEE'S FAMILY ENJOY AN OUTSTANDING

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	TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE	
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	ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: COB	
	MARCH 4, ]977, WITHOUT FAIL.	
	SECTION THREE OF FOUR	
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REPUTATION IN DALLAS, AND THE APPOINTEE ENJOYS A GOOD
REPUTATION BOTH POLITICALLY AS AN ATTORNEY, AND HAS A
BUSINESSMAN. KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION
REGARDING APPOINTEE, AND WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE
FAVORABLY FOR ANY POSITION.
ON MARCH 3, ]977,
OF WYLAIN CORPORATION, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED HE HAS
SERVED WITH THE APPOINTEE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE WYLAIN CORPORATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND HAS KNOWN
APPOINTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY ]6 YEARS. STATED
THE APPOINTEE IS AN EXCELLENT BUSINESSMAN, AND OUTSTANDING
ATTORNEY, AND HE KNOWS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING
APPOINTEE. STATED HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND
APPOINTEE FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST.
ON MARCH 3, ]977, THE
APPOINTEE, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED STRAUSS BROADCASTING
COMPANY, WHICH WAS FORMERLY LOCATED IN THE UNITED NATIONAL
BANK BUILDING, ]40] SOUTH AKARD, DALLAS, TEXAS, IS NO
LONGER IN EXISTENCE IN DALLAS, BUT IS ALL HEADQUARTERED

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	IN TUCSON, ARIZONA, WHERE THE FIRM IS OPERATED BY THE
	APPOINTEE'S THE APPOINTEE STATED FIFTY PER CENT
	OF THE COMPANY WAS OWNED BY
	FORTY PER CENT WAS HELD BY THE APPOINTEE, AND TEN PER
	CENT HELD BY
	MISCELLANEOUS - ON MARCH 4, ]977,
	ADVISED THAT THERE IS A
ļ	STRAUSS FAMILY RESIDING AT BUT THAT HE
	DOES NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHO IT IS. HE COULD ONLY
	ADVISE THAT THEY ARE REGARDED AS QUIET NEIGHBORS.
	ON MARCH 4, ]977,
	ADVISED THERE IS A STRAUSS FAMILY
	WHO RESIDES AT BUT SHE IS NOT SURE
	OF THE FAMILY'S FIRST NAMES, AND CAN ONLY STATE THAT SHE
	HAS NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ONE WAY OR THE OTHER REGARDING THE
	FAMILY.
	ON MARCH 4, ]977,
	ADVISED SHE KNOWS "ONLY IN
	PASSING," AS LIVING AT
	ON MARCH 4, ]977, A REVIEW OF THE ]976 ISSUE OF THE

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DALLAS CITY DIRECTORY REVEALED THE F	OLLOWING:
THE RESIDENCE OF	
IS SHOWN TO BE OCCUPIED BY	THE RESIDENCE
OF	IS SHOWN TO BE
OCCUPIED BY	
ON MARCH 4, ]977, A SEARCH OF T	HE DALLAS MORNING
NEWS, A DAILY PUBLISHED PERIODICAL I	N DALLAS, TEXAS,
REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION C	CONCERNING ROBERT S.
STRAUSS. THE INFORMATION IS BEING S	YNOPSIZED AND PHOTO-
COPIES OF THE ARTICLES THEMSELVES AR	E BEING FORWARDED TO
THE BUREAU BY AIRTEL:	
BY ARTICLE DATED DECEMBER 20, ]	972, IT WAS STATED
THAT "THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEW CH	AIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL COMMITTEE, ROBERT STRAUSS O	F DALLAS, AND FORMER
TEXAS GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, WHO	HEADED THE DEMOCRATS
FOR NIXON ORGANIZATION, IS COMING UN	DER NATIONAL SCRUTINY
AND THE EXAMINATION OF THE PARTY LEA	DERS MAY BE INTENSIFIED.
BY ARTICLE DATED APRIL 22, ]973	, VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC
CHAIRMAN JOSEPH FITZPATRICK, SAID HE	WOULD INITIATE A
Approved: Sent	M Per

Special Agent in Charge

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RECALL MOVE TO OUST NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN ROBERT S. STRAUSS FOR BEING "JOHN CONNALLY'S STOOGE."

BY ARTICLES DATED APRIL 26, MAY 5, JUNE ]5, AND DECEMBER 5, ]975, THE QUESTION IS RAISED AS WHETHER STRAUSS, THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ACTED ILLEGALLY IN ACCEPTING A \$50,000 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM ASHLAND OIL COMPANY, INC., OF KENTUCKY.

BY ARTICLE DATED NOVEMBER 22, ]975, DEMOCRATIC FUND-RAISER HAROLD WILLIAMS OF LOS ANGELES MADE A PUBLIC PLEA FOR ROBERT STRAUSS TO RESIGN AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AS A RESULT OF THE \$50,000 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM ASHLAND OIL COMPANY WHILE STRAUSS WAS PARTY TREASURER.

THERE APPEARED TO BE NO OTHER ARTICLES OF OBVIOUS DEROGATORY COMMENT OR DEFAMATION IN THE FILES OF THIS PARTICULAR NEWSPAPER.

A REVIEW OF THE FILES OF THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD,

A DAILY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER AT DALLAS, TEXAS, REVEALED

THAT BY ARTICLE DATED SEPTEMBER 22, ]970, SENATOR RALPH

YARBOROUGH SUGGESTED THAT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TREASURER

ROBERT STRAUSS RESIGN HIS PARTY POST, LABELING STRAUSS

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"AN EXPONENT OF CROCKED POLITICS" FOR

"AN EXPONENT OF CROOKED POLITICS" FOR OPPOSING THE PARTY PURITY PLANK.

BY ARTICLE DATED APRIL 22, ]973, JOSEPH T.

FITZPATRICK OF VIRGINIA STATED HE WOULD INITIATE A

RECALL MOVE TO OUST ROBERT STRAUSS AS NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC

CHAIRMAN, CALLING HIM "JOHN CONNALLY'S STOOGE."

BY ARTICLE DATED JUNE 9, 1974, STRAUSS STATED HE
DID NOT FEEL THAT IT WAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, NOR
ILLEGAL FOR HIM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OF THE BANKING
CONCERNS WITH WHICH HE IS AFFILIATED. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF
THE VALLEY VIEW BANK OF DALLAS, TEXAS. HE ALSO STATED
THAT HE FELT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY BEING APPOINTED
TO THE STATE BANKING BOARD BY JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS.

BY ARTICLE DATED JANUARY ]0, ]975, STRAUSS TOLD
THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT HE MAY HAVE UNKNOWINGLY COMMITTED
A TECHNICAL VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ON REPORTING
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN HE WAS PARTY TREASURER IN

1970 AND ]97]. HE WAS REFERRING TO TO TWO CASH CONTRIBUTIONS
TOTALING \$50,000, WHICH WERE ARRANGED BY TOP EXECUTIVES

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OF ASHLAND OIL, INC., OF KENTUCKY. THE ARTICLE STATED
THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IS STILL GATHERING
FACTS ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE GIFT, AND
WHETHER FEDERAL DISCLOSURE LAWS HAD BEEN VIOLATED.

CREDIT AND ARREST - ON MARCH 3, ]977, OPERATOR NUMBER 5, CREDIT BUREAU SERVICES OF DALLAS, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED THEIR FILES SHOW APPOINTEE TO RESIDE AT 6223 DE LOACHE, DALLAS, TEXAS, SINCE 1949. THEIR FILES SHOW APPOINTEE TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED AS AN ATTORNEY, 2800 REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, SINCE MARCH, 1949. THIS WAS VERIFIED IN 1968. CREDIT BUREAU FILES INDICATE APPOINTEE WAS BORN IN 1919, AND SHOW HIS WIFE TO BE HELEN. APPOINTEE HAS BEEN IN THE FILES OF THE CREDIT BUREAU SINCE [94], AND WAS LAST INQUIRED UPON BY A BANK ON JANUARY 27, 1976. APPOINTEE'S CREDIT RATING IS THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE, AND THE CREDIT BUREAU FILES SHOW FIVE ACCOUNTS WITH A HIGH BALANCE OF \$]5,000. THESE ACCOUNTS ARE ALL SHOWN TO BE OPEN ACCOUNTS, WITH NO BALANCE. FILES ALSO INDICATE A REVOLVING ACCOUNT WITH A HIGH BALANCE OF \$534, AND SHOWS NO CURRENT BALANCE.

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	ON MARCH 3, ]977, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ADVISED
	THE FILES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES ARE NEGATIVE
	REGARDING APPOINTEE; APPOINTEE'S WIFE, HELEN JACOBS
	STRAUSS; APPOINTEE'S
	APPOINTEE'S AND APPOINTEE'S
	, IDENTIFICATION SECTION, DALLAS COUNTY
	SHERIFF'S OFFICE, DALLAS, TEXAS;
	IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS SECTION, DALLAS POLICE DEPART-
	MENT, DALLAS, TEXAS.
	ON MARCH 3, ]977, TRAFFIC RECORDS,
	DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT, DALLAS, TEXAS, ADVISED ROBERT S.
	STRAUSS HAD A SPEEDING TICKET IN THE CITY OF DALLAS ON
	NOVEMBER ]2, ]975, CASE NUMBER 75-4736D, AND PAID A
	FINE OF \$23 ON SEPTEMBER ]7, ]976.
	ADMINISTRATIVE - PERSONS CONTACTED WERE APPRISED OF
	THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT.
	A REVIEW OF DALLAS FILE LEGAT PARIS FILE
	DETERMINED LEGAT PARIS LETTER TO BUREAU NOVEMBER 30

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	FM DALLAS ]6]-]2]6) (RUC)	
	TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE	
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	ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: C	!OB
	MARCH 4, ]977, WITHOUT FAIL.	
	SECTION FOUR OF FINAL SECTION	
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	]970, CAPTIONED, IS-BELGIUM,"
	REVEALED SUBJECT OF CAPTIONED MATTER IS IDENTICAL TO
	DATE OF BIRTH
	SUBJECT BORN
	SUBJECT'S FATHER AND BROTHER DESCRIBED AS CONFIRMED COMMUNIST
	ACTIVISTS IN BELGIUM. LEGAT PARIS ADVISED BY LETTER TO
	BUREAU DATED JANUARY ]4, ]97],
	HAD NO PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNIN
	SUBJECT EXCEPT HER DEPARTURE BY AIR ON APRIL 9, ]966, EN ROUTE
	TO WARSAW, POLAND, AND HER LATER MOVE TO DALLAS - TURTLE CREEK,
	370], ON MARCH 30, ]967. ADVISED SUBJECT'S
	DATE OF BIRTH (BECAME A
	BELGIUM CITIZEN IN ]949 BY NATURALIZATION), WAS KNOWN TO THE
	IN ]946, AS
	AT LIEGE. ON OCTOBER 23, ]962, AND NOVEMBER ]4, ]969,
	DEPARTED BRUSSELS TO MOSCOW, PURPOSE OF TRIPS NOT KNOWN.
	ADVISED SUBJECT'S DATE OF BIRTH
	ACTIVE IN MARXIST-LENINIST CIRCLES
	SINCE ]965. NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT.
	BT
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# Strauss explains bank interests

By BON CALHOUN

Political Writer

Before he goes any further in politics—and he's got a lot cooking in politics—Democratic national chairman Bob Strauss wants to lay a few numers to rest concerning his banking intercepts.

In an interview, Strauss said his Valley View Bank, which opened its new quarters with a VIP party Friday evening, did not acquire its charter when he was on the State Banking Board as an appointee of former Gov.

John Connally,

He also noted the banks in which his brother Ted and son Rick have interests are not state banks, but national banks which are chartered in Washington.

Strauss was in Dallas, his hometown, Friday for a press conference on the forthcoming Democratic Telethon III fund-raiser, and to attend the VIP party.

The 55-year-old attorney is chairman of the board of the bank, located at Preston Road and the LBJ Freeway.

In an amouncement of an openhouse Saturday and Sunday (from noon to 6 p.m.), the bank was described as "one of the fastest growing" in the Metroplex, moving from 41 million in pleposits when it opened in temporary quarters three years ago to \$9.8 million in resources today.

Inevitably, whispers have been touched off in political circles about the banking interests.

Strauss said he was "clean" in the matter, "When Connaily asked me to be on the State Banking Board, it was

because my law firm did not handle any banking business," he said.

"I didn't let my law firm handle anything that came before that board during the six years I was on it, or for 12 months thereafter."

Strauss was on the board from 1962 through 1968. He said the bank did not get its charter until 1971.

Strauss' younger brother Ted, a longtime Dallas civic leader and businessman, will be board chairman of the new United National Bank of Dallas which will open in the Kirby Building.

His son Rick is on the board of directors of the Dallas Fort Worth Airport National Bank.

At his press conference Friday. Strauss said he hopes Telethon III will bring in enough money to retire the rest of the national Democratic party's debts, which have decreased from \$9 million to \$2.5 million under his stew-ardahip.

The Telethon will be aired over CBS-TV beginning at 9 p.m. June 29 and ending the next day at 6 p.m.

It will feature pitches for contributions by entertainers, aports figures and Democrats of all persuasions on the local and national levels. "Whoever you might be, I want that (television) screen to reflect you," said Strauss.

Two earlier Telethons have raised more than \$4 million for the national party, and an even larger amount for state parties, he said.

Strauss said he was having fewer and fewer misgivings about the "mini" national convention the Democrats will hold in December in Kansas City.

National parties have operated "by

the seat of their pants" throughout the history of the country, he said. For the first time, the Democrats will have a national charter and set of rules to regulate party affairs.

He declined to get into specifics for the charter, saying there was "some talk" he would be chairman of the donvention, and he did not want to appear to be taking sides.

Strauss said he was "sorry" to hear of the troubles his old friend and for mer political ally Conhally was experiencing in the milk producer contribution case, adding, "I have never known him to (commit) a dishonorable act."

He showed his characteristic fauntist ness when a female reporter asked him about Sent Edward Kennedy's presidential promects.

Well, I'll tell you, honey," he culpped. "I'm going to do a lot of stund things in politics between now and the and some of them may be caused, by setty girls like you.

But I hope I'm not going to be so stupid as to get involved in 1976 presidential politics in 1974."

Dalai Lama target of Chinese attack

HONG KONG—China's current idealogical campaign has attacked the former Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, whom the Peking People's Daily has described as "one of the scorpions living in the same den as Lin Piao and Confuscius."

An artice of criticism published in the party paper this week drew a comparison between the Dalai Lama on the one hand and Lin Place and Confucius on the other.

Relieve Stores

# Called 'Connally stooge' NAPR 2 2 1973

# Strauss reca

day he will initiate a recall ell. move to oust Strauss.

emor of Texas who became said. President Nixon's treasury sectoday in the Democratic party. vania attended the meeting. some political I.O.U.'s.

- suit," Fitzpatrick Calling national Democratic Strauss wanted to settle for dential candidate George S. chairman Robert S. Strauss \$500,000. We were adamant McGovern last fall. "John Connally's stooge," Virthat we didn't want to settle.

Pitzpatrick said that Connal- been in communication with Washington Post that he had ly, the former Democratic gov- John Connally?" Fitzpatrick refused Fitzpatrick's appeal

Fitzpatrick said besides himretary and worked for Nixon's self the state party chairmen in races for statewide office reclection, was the man who of Alabama, Iowa, Massachu- this fall. Helped Strauss get where he is setts. New York and Pennsyl-

Eitzpatrick said he wondered Fitzpatrick said in an inter 'They don't care enough down Connaily wasn't calling in view that at the next meeting there (Virginia) to finance of. of the Democratic National They're not going to run much He's John Connally's Committee he will initiate a of a race anyway. That's exstronge," Fitzpatrick said. recall move to oust Strains, actly what I said to them, in-I was one of six state Strauss is the former national stead of whining, why don't chairmen who met with party treasurer who supplant you go down there and get trauss April 11. We were all ed. Mrs. Jean Westwood as some people who care enough parties in the Watergate civil party chairman shortly after to do something about it?"

said. the defeat of Democratic presi-

"I intend to attend the next ginia Democratic chairman Jo- He said later he had had a meeting of the national comsteph T. Fitzpatrick said Satur- conversation with John Mitch- mittee to move we recall Robell. ert Strauss," Fitzpatrick said.
"I wonder if he also has Last week Strauss told the for the national party to financially back Virginia candidates

> Strauss was quoted by the Post Saturday as saying,

# Serator's Call That He Resign

By MARGARET MAYER
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — National Democratic Treasurer Robert Strauss is ignoring Sen. Ralph Yarrorough's suggestion that he reside his party post and says the senator is being used by forces that want to defeat Texas Democrats.

purity" law, the subject of Yarborough's blast. He also said he thought it would have been a mistake to include the plank in the platform adopted at the state Democratic convention ast week.

Yarbeiough, speaking in Waco Monday night, labeled Strauss "an exponent of crocked politics" for opposing the party purity plank. He said Strauss ought to resign as national treasurer.

PERSON opposed to basic horesty in politics can do the Democratic party no good in the key and sensitive position of party treasurer," Yarborough said. "By Strauss' exhibition of his true colors on Sept. 15, as an exponent of crooked politics, he for feited, the respect of Democrats over the nation and ought to resign today as national treasurer."

Speaking at an appreciation banquet in his honor, Yarbo-rough said a great flaw in the Texas law governing political parties is its fallure to protect one party from the deliberate raiding of its elections by another.

"The treasurer of the Designation of the Designation of the should be in the forefront of moves for political honesty, and for laws and rules to permit a party, to protect itself," Yarborough said.

"The Americans for Democratic Action called for my resignation several months against I expect to give Sen Yarborough's request the same consideration," Strauss said.

A ARTY purity law would require voter registration by party and prohibit voters registered in one party from voting in the other party's primaries. Yarborough blames Republican voters in this year's Democratic primary for his defeat by Lloyd Bentsen.

Strauss has been engaged in a running word battle with econo? mist John Kenneth Galbraith, who advocates defeat of Democratic candidates who do not high to a liberal party line. The national treasurer and Dallas attorney said he believed Yarborough is being misinformed by Texas Democrats who advocate; the course esponsed by Galbraith.

He said Yarborough was misinformed about what took place in the platform; committee in Dallas last week.

Strauss said he discussed the party purity plank with state. Sens. Oscar Maury of Dallas and Barbara Jordan of Houston and they agreed it would be a matake to include the provision in the platform.

# Strauss says contribution may be illegal

By ROBERT SHOGAN © 1975 Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Democratic National Chairman Robert S. Strauss has told the Los Angeles Times that he may have unknowingly committed a 'technical' violation of the federal law on reporting political contributions when he was party treasurer in 1970 and 1971.

The Watergate special prosecutor's office is known to be pursuing an investigation into the case and into other possible violations of disclosure statutes by political figures.

"I thought it was legal at the time," Strauss said of his handling of two cash contributions totaling \$50,000 which were arranged by top executives of Ashland Oil, Inc. of Kentucky.

Strauss said he reported the money as "miscellaneous" contributions, rather than listing the specific amounts and names of donors as the law required for gifts of more than \$100. He did so, he said, because he felt that Ashland officials didn't want the Nix-

See STRAUSS on Page 13

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\* STRAUSS 0 1975

on administration to know of the contribution.

tribution.

The transaction first came to light last week when Ashland Oil pleaded guilty in federal court here to charges of making illegal corporate contributions to the Democratic National Committee, through Strauss, and to politicians in both parties.

Strauss was not charged in these cases. And he said that he was led to believe that the money came from individual executives, which would have been legal, rather than from the company itself, which was a violation of the law.

But it is known that the opecial prosecutor's office is still gathering facts about the circumstances currounding the \$50,000 cit to the DNC to determine whether federal disclosure laws were violated.

Similar inquiries are being pressed into the way other illegal gifts from Ashland and other corporations were disclosed by their recipients.

## rauss

By JOHN GEDDIE Washington Bureau of The News

LOUISVILLE - Liberal Democratic fundraiser Harold Willens of Los Angeles surprised the issues conference here Friday with a; public plea for Bob Strauss of Dallas to resign as party chairman.

Willens, a wealthy McCarthy and McGovern fundraiser, angered some officials the National Democratic Issues Conference with the unscheduled discussion of Strauss' acparty from Ashland Oil Co. while party treasurer.

Lanny Davis, a founder of the sponsoring Democratic Forum and a member of its board of directors, told The News, "We are more than embarrassed, twe are out-

raged."

"Without Bob Strauss this convention couldn't have happened," he said. "He encouraged us from the start."

DAVIS SAID the convention officials allowed Willens to make a routine introduction to the delegates. Other conference officials said Willens gave ino indication ceptance of \$50,000 for the he planned it to attack. Strauss, although he was described as sale longtime

critic of the chairman.

Strauss, treasurer before becoming party chairman, has said he was unaware that Ashland made a corporate contribution.

In Willens" remarks, he said, "On Monday of this week the Los Angeles Times reminded its readers in an editorial entitled 'OK, Mr. Strauss . . . When?" that our national chairman took \$50,000 in illegal cash contributions when he was party treasurer-for which he has avoided indictment by ducking behind the statute of limitations."

-APOLOGETIC conference officials informed Strauss of the remarks when he ar-

rived at Convention Hall later.

"You can't control Harold Willens," Strauss replied. "I'm not worried about Harold Willens."

Strauss told reporters that Willens is ill.

Most stunned were the conference leaders, who said the Louisville meeting was scheduled to begin development of specific Democratic issues for the 1976 campaign.

REP: BARBARA JOR-DAN of Houston, a conference co-chairperson, introduced Strauss later Friday night. She praised him for reducing the party debt and

bringing a unity to the Democrats.

"We.owe a great debt to Robert Strauss," he said.

Strauss did not refer to Willens during his address.

The chairman said he was concerned about a "popular notion" that Americans believe the best government is the least government.

"There is a misconception of what the American people want . . . People don't want less government; they want better government."

The chairman acknowledged that, historically, Americans have been "overpromised," but he said programs must be improved instead of eliminated.

Oil money to be returned

OEC 5 1975 (UPI Straus Said Thursday Straus Said Thursday

WASHINGTON (UPI— Demodratic National Committed Chairman (Robert Strauss said Thursday the party will return a \$50,000 campaign contribution illegally given in 1970 by the Ashland Oil Co.

Strauss, speaking at a luncheon of the Washington Press Club, said he accepted the money five years ago when oil-company officials yowed it came from their personal funds.

He said when it was learned in the last year the money came from the company, a violation of federal waw, he appointed a committee to recommend what should be done.

He said the party had no legal obligation to return the money, but the committee headed by national treasurer Edward Bennett Williams recommended it be repaid, and "our decision is made . . . it is being carried on our books now as a debt to be repaid."

Strauss said because of a stockholders' court suit against the company, the time of repayment was not known but he expected a partial payment to be made within the next month or so.

Strauss told of the decision to repay the Ashland contribution after a speech in which he sharply attacked politicians who seek office by running against big government and federal efforts to solve rational problems.

"Nostalgic and oversimplified leaf of a return to the good old days plays to the Ford-Reagan negative approach to national problems and is dangerous," Strauss said, "We must develop a rational leader to follow into the next decade instead of a nonleader who only wants to ride behind monetary popular moods for political gain or office."

Fund-Raising Cases Dropped Against Two

New York (UPI)—The New York Daily News has reported that the Watergate special prosecutor's office has been forced to drop plans to prosecute Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss and to investigate Rep. Wilbur Mills. D-Ark., because of the statute of limitations in a recently passed law

cently passed law. 20-A
The News said both cases
concerned political fund
raising

concerned political fund raising. "Before enactment of the new campaign law". the limitations on prosecution of campaign-spending violations was five years," the News said. "The amendments, passed in the House version of the reform bill last year and retained during a House-Senate conference, cut this to three years, and applied it retroactively.

### Party Figure Quiet Over Smith Anger

Washington Bureous
WASHINGTON - National
Demogratic Treasurer Robert Strauss Tuesday declined
to comment on reports that
Texas Gov. Prestor Smith
will call for his resignation
this CALL - 8 972
"I've had no word directly

"I've had no word hirectly or indirectly from him and in fairness I don't want to respond unless I do hear from him," Strauss said.

Smith was angered by Strauss' public endorsement of one of his gubernatorial opponents, Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes.

Strauss' name appeared with 350 others in an advertisement for Barnes in The Dallas Morning News Feb. 13.

Smith in a letter to a supporter said he felt Strausshad an obligation to remain impartial. Aides of the governor have said he probably will issue a statement calling for Strauss' removal this week.

"I have no apologies for endorsing Ben Barnes," Strauss said. "I think he'll make a splendid governor."

# IBobert IBoskino Strauss-Connally Link XX Under National Scrutiny

Schlor Rollitical Analyst

The relationship of the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee Robert Strauss of Dallas, and former Texas Gov. John B. Connally, who headed the Democrats for Nixon organization, is coming under national scrutiny, and the examination of it by party leaders may be intensified.

This scarcely seems to be the time for exultation over the ascendancy of Texans in both parties. In fact, this could be the road to ruin.

To suggest that there is collusion between Strauss, Connaily and George Bush, who will become the next chairman of the Republican National Committee, is to suggest that there has been a complete breakdown in the 2-party system.

BUT THIS IS what is being widely suggested in Texas—that, regardless of party affiliations, Texas is going to be the top dog in the national political heap.

Inevitably, this kind of talk is going to invite serious repercussions in other parts of the country. There is already sufficient anti-Texas sentiment in the nation to make the situation tenuous. A manifestation of Texas chauvinism and heroworship could turn out to be devastating.

It is appropriate to review the Strauss-Connally relationship as it pertains to the national political picture.

As is well known, the two men are old friends, dating back to their University of Texas days. As governor, Connaily picked Strauss to be the Texas committeeman on the Democratic National Committee. They have worked hand in glove over the years on state and national politics. It was a harmonious relationship.

#### Paths Diverge

But in 1972 their political paths diverged. Strauss remained loyal to the national Democratic Party. Connally, who had won the respect and admiration of Richard Nixon and been appointed his Treasury secretary, elected to head up the Democrats for Nixon movement.

Since the Nov. 7 election, Strauss has been a leader of the moderate-conservative Democrats endeavoring to pull the national party, which veered left-wing under the McGovernites, back to the center. Connally, meanwhile, has been an outspoken defender of the Nixon administration, and although he retains his identity as a Democrat, he is regarded by the liberals as, at least, a potential Republican. Strauss himself has predicted that Connally will become a Republican.

#### Finally Relented

Strauss was reluctant to become a candidate for national Democratic chairman, but he finally relented. On Dec. 9, after considerable intra-party wrangling, he won the post.

Before the vote, Strauss told friends that his main obstacle in wooing general party support was the fact that Connally had endorsed him for chairman. He had hoped that Connally, who is intensely disliked by the northern liberals, would remain silent.

Strauss, seeking party unity, had to overcome this endorsement. But the suspicion lingers among the liberals that he may be a handmaiden of John B. Connally.

THE HARD realities of the situation are these:

- 1. Strauss, as national chairman, will have to maintain a drumfire of criticism of the Nixon administration and endeavor to rally Democrats of all persuasions behind the party's candidates in 1974 and 1976.
- 2. Connally, as a confidente and close friend of Nixon, will feel it incumbent upon him to defend the administration, whether he decides to become a Republican or not.

The worst thing that can happen to Strauss, as he attempts to reconstruct the Democratic Party along more reasonable lines, is for there to be wide acceptance of the idea that he is at the beck and call of Connally.

Strauss said recently that Connally didn't own him and he didn't own Connally.

He should be taken at his word.

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SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE 32532

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CLEAR

ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED:

RE DALLAS TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DATED MARCH 5, 1977; BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO DALLAS, MARCH 7, 1977; AND DALLAS TELEPHONE CALLS TO HOUSTON AND SAN ANTONIO, MARCH 7, 1977.

REVIEW OF MORGUE RECORDS OF DAILY DALLAS, TEXAS, NEWS-PAPERS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT INFORMATION RE APPOINTEE:

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS - BY ARTICLE DATED DECEMBER 20, 1972, IT WAS STATED THAT "THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, ROBERT STRAUSS OF DALLAS, AND FORMER TEXAS GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, WHO

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HEADED THE DEMOCRATS FOR NIXON ORGANIZATION, IS COMING UNDER NATIONAL SCRUTINY AND THE EXAMINATION OF THE PARTY LEADERS MAY BE INTENSIFIED.

BY ARTICLE DATED APRIL 22, 1973, VIRGINJA DEMOCRATIC
CHAIRMAN JOSEPH FITZPATRICK, SAID HE WOULD INITIATE A RECALL
MOVE TO OUST NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN ROBERT S. STRAUSS
FOR BEING "JOHN CONNALLY'S STOOGE."

BY ARTICLES DATED APRIL 26, MAY 5, JUNE 15, AND DECEMBER 5, 1975, THE QUESTION IS RAISED AS WHETHER STRAUSS, THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ACTED ILLEGALLY IN ACCEPTING A \$50,000 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM ASHLAND OIL COMPANY, INC., OF KENTUCKY.

BY ARTICLE DATED NOVEMBER 22, 1975, DEMOCRATIC FUND-RAISER HAROLD WILLIAMS OF LOS ANGELES MADE A PUBLIC PLEA FOR ROBERT STRAUSS TO RESIGN AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AS A RESULT OF THE \$50,000 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM ASHLAND OIL COMPANY WHILE STRAUSS WAS PARTY TREASURER.

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD - BY ARTICLE DATED SEPTEMBER 22,
1970, SENATOR RALPH YARBOROUGH SUGGESTED THAT NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC TREASURER ROBERT STRAUSS RESIGN HIS PARTY POST,

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LABELING STRAUSS "AN EXPONENT OF CROOKED POLITICS" FOR OPPOSING THE PARTY PURITY PLANK.

BY ARTICLE DATED APRIL 22, 1973, JOSEPH T. FITZPATRICK OF VIRGINIA STATED HE WOULD INITIATE A RECALL MOVE TO OUST ROBERT STRAUSS AS NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, CALLING HIM "JOHN CONNALLY'S STOOGE."

BY ARTICLE DATED JUNE 9, 1974, STRAUSS STATED HE DID NOT FEEL THAT IT WAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, NOR ILLEGAL FOR HIM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OF THE BANKING CONCERNS WITH WHICH HE IS AFFILIATED. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE VALLEY VIEW BANK OF DALLAS, TEXAS. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE FELT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY BEING APPOINTED TO THE STATE BANKING BOARD BY JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS.

BY ARTICLE DATED JANUARY 10, 1975, STRAUSS TOLD THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT HE MAY HAVE UNKNOWINGLY COMMITTED A TECHNICAL VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ON REPORTING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN HE WAS PARTY TREASURER IN 1970 AND 1971. HE WAS REFERRING TO TWO CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$50,000, WHICH WERE ARRANGED BY TOP EXECUTIVES OF ASHLAND OIL, INC.,

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OF KENTUCKY. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE IS STILL GATHERING FACTS ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE GIFT, AND WHETHER FEDERAL DISCLOSURE LAWS
HAD BEEN VIOLATED.

HOUSTON. CONTACT JOHN CONNALLY AT LAW FIRM OF VINSON, ELKINS, SEARLS, CONNALLY AND SMITH, FIRST CITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, HOUSTON, RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ABOVE ARTICLES, AND COMMENTS RE STRAUSS.

SAN ANTONIO AT AUSTIN, TEXAS. CONTACT RALPH YARBOROUGH
AT HIS LAW FIRM REGARDING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF STRAUSS, NOTING
HIS PAST COMMENTS CONCERNING APPOINTEE.

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TO FBI WASHINGTON FIELD PRIORITY

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ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: AUGUST 29,

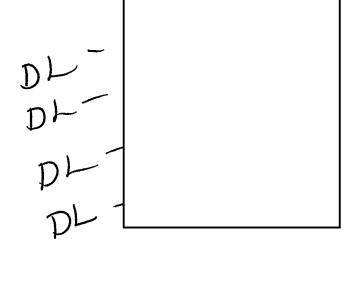
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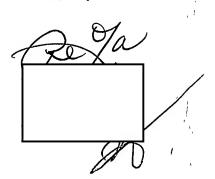
BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXPEDITE UPDATE INVESTIGATION OF STRAUSS FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT INDICATED BUT REQUIRES SENATE CONFIRMATION.

ALL OFFICES UPDATE FROM MARCH, 1977, TO THE PRESENT.

BORN OCTOBER 19, 1918, IN LOCKHART, TEXAS, AND HAS

SSAN 466-23-2583.





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TEXAS; AND 1978 TO THE PRESENT, 1333 NORTH HAMP
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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OF AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER, AND FELD
CLOSE RELATIVES: WIFE, HELEN J. STRAUGS, BORN OCT ER 9,
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PITTSBURGH CHECK OPM.

PROVIDED BY APPOINTEE IS LIMITED. CONTACT HIM TO OBTAIN ANY
NECESSARY INFORMATION; CHECK STATE BAR ASSOCIATIONS.

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DALLAS AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE ARE ALSO INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT THE UNITED STATE - ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WHEREVER APPOINTEE HAS LIVED OR WORKED AS AN ADULT TO DETERMINE IF ANY INFORMATION INDICATING FEDERAL PROSECUTIVE ACTION CONCERNING STRAUSS.

DALLAS AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE, AS PRINICPAL OFFICES, EACH INSURE AT LEAST FIFTEEN TO TWENTY PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING APPOINTEE ARE INTERVIEWED.

INVESTIGATION SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION AND RECEIVING OFFICES SHOULD TELEPHONICALLY ADVISE FBIHQ OF ANY DEROGATORY INFORMATION DEVELOPED AND CONFIRM BY TELETYPE.

RECEIVING OFFICES NOTE THAT ALL PERIODS OF APPOINTEE'S LIFE MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR AN DIF DURING THE COUSE OF INVESTIGATION UNEXPLAINED OR UNACCCOUNTED FOR GAPS ARE IDENTIFIED, LEADS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE TO HAVE APPOINTEE CONTACTED AND TO HAVE HIS ACTIVITIES DURING SPECIFIC PERIODS

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SF 86 AND RECORDS RELEASE FOLLOW BY AIRTEL.

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Enclosed are background data and records release received with request for investigation.

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TO DIRECTOR. FBI PRIORITY

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ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS; SPIN; BUDED: 8/25/83 WITHOUT FAIL RE BUTEL TO ALL OFFICES, 8/15/83.

APPOINTEE LISTED ONLY TWO CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES ON SF-86. THIRD CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATE IS RICHARD A. GUMP, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAVER, AND FELD, DALLAS, TEXAS. APPOINTEE IS MEMBER OF COMMISSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA-BUDED 8/25/83, NOON.

LEAD. DALLAS DIVISION. AT DALLAS, TEXAS. CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INTERVIEW OF GUMP.

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ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS, SPIN; BUDED: 8/29/83

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO, DATED 8/15/83.

REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED DALLAS CONTACT AND INTERVIEW RICHARD GUMP, LISTED AS A REFERENCE BY APPOINTEE. DALLAS UNABLE TO CONTACT GUMP, DUE TO HIS BEING OUT OF TOWN, IN AUSTIN, UNTIL, AUGUST 29, 1983.

SAN ANTONIO AT AUSTIN, TEXAS - CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INTERVIEW OF RICHARD GUMP, LISTED AS A REFERENCE ON APPOINTEE'S APPLICATION, AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: 815 SUNFISH, AUSTIN, TEXAS, TELEPHONE (512) 261-5466.

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